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237:72

Philadelphia June 6, 1780

Sir,

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 2d Instant, containing sundry Resolutions respecting the District of Country commonly known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants.

I have the honour to be
with very great respect
Sir, Your obed[t] humble Servant
Sam[l] Huntington President

P. S. June 10th You have also enclosed an Act of Congress of the 9th Instant appointing the second Tuesday of September next for hearing the Disputes respecting the New Hampshire Grants in the manner therein expressed.

I am obt. Servt.
S. Huntington President

The Hon[ble]
The President of the Council of N. Hampshire

116

In Congress June 2d 1780

Whereas it is represented to Congress and by authentic evidence laid before them it appears that the people inhabiting the district of Country commonly known by the name of the New Hampshire grants claiming to be an independent State have, notwithstanding the resolutions of Congress of the 24th Septem. and 2d Octr. proceeded, as a seperate government, to make grants of lands and sales of estates by them declared forfeited and confiscated; and have also in divers instances exercised civil and military authority over the persons and effects of sundry inhabitants within the said district who profess themselves to be citizens of and to owe allegiance to the State of New York.

Resolved, That the acts and proceedings of the people inhabiting the said district and claiming to be an independent State as aforesaid, in contravening the good intentions of said resolutions of the 24. September and 2. October last are highly unwarrantable, and subversive of the peace and welfare of the United States.—

That the people inhabiting the said district and claiming to be an independent State as aforesaid be and they hereby are strictly required to forbear and abstain from all acts of authority civil or military over the inhabitants of any town or district who hold themselves to be subjects of, and to owe allegiance to any of the States claiming the jurisdiction of the said territory, in whole or

or in part, until the decisions and determinations in the resolutions aforementioned, shall be made.

And whereas the States of New Hampshire and New York have complied with the said resolutions of the 24th Septr. and 2d Octr. last, and by their Agents and Delegates in Congress declared themselves ready to proceed in supporting their respective rights to the jurisdiction of the district aforesaid in whole or in part according to their several claims and in the mode prescribed in the said resolutions; and whereas Congress by their order of the 21st March last did postpone the consideration of the subject of the said resolutions, nine States, exclusive of those who were parties to the question not being represented; and, in their order of the 17 of May have directed that Letters be written to the States not represented & requesting them immediately to send forward a representation.

Resolved, That Congress will as soon as nine States exclusive of those who are parties to the Controversy shall be represented proceed to hear and examine into and finally determin the disputes and differences relative to jurisdiction between the three States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay and New York respectively or such of them as shall have passed such Laws as are mentioned in the said resolutions of the 24 Septr. & 2nd Octr. last on the one part, and the people of the district

aforesaid who claim to be a seperate jurisdiction on the other, in the mode prescribed in & by the said resolutions

Extract from the Minutes

Cha. Thomson Secy.

Bennington 25th July 1780

Sir,

Your Excellencys letter of the 10th ult, enclosing several Acts of Congress of the 2d and 9th of the same month, I accidently received the 6th Instant, have laid them before my Council and taken their advice thereon, and now beg your Excellency's indulgence while I treat on a subject of such moment in its nature, and which so nearly concerns the Citizens of this State —

However Congress may view those Resolutions, they are considered by the people of this State, as being in their nature subversive of the natural Rights which they have to Liberty & Independence, as well as incompatible with the principles on which Congress ground their own Right to Independence, and have a natural and direct tendency to endanger the Liberties of America, which have hitherto been defended at great expence both of Blood and Treasure. —

Vermonts Right to Independence has been sufficiently argued, and the good consequences resulting to the United States from its first assuming Government clearly vindicated in sundry Pamphlets, which have been officially laid before Congress. — I beg leave to refer your Excellency to "Vermonts Appeal" &c particularly from the 32d to the 42d page, in which among other things is contained a particular answer to the Resolutions of the 24th of Septemr. refered to

to in the resolve of the 2d of June last, and a denial of the authority of Congress over this State, so far as relates to their existence as a free and Independent ~~State~~ Government — I find notwithstanding by a Resolution of the 9th ult. that Congress have assigned the 2nd Tuesday of September next to judge absolutely of the Independence of Vermont as a seperate Jurisdiction.

Can Congress suppose that this Government are so void of Reason as not to discern, that the Resolves of the 2d and 9th of June aforesaid (so far as the authority of Congress may be supposed to extend to this State) are directly leveled against their Independency?

Vermont as beforementioned, being a free and Independent State, have denied the authority of Congress to judge of their Jurisdiction.—

Over the Head of all this, Congress have, it appears by their Resolutions of the 9th ult — determined that they have power to judge the Cause, which has already determined the essence of the Dispute; for if Vermont does not belong to some one of the United States, Congress could have no such power without their consent; so that consequently by determining that they have such a power, has determined that Vermont has no right to Independency, for it is utterly incompatible with the Rights and Prerogatives of an Independent State, to be under the Control or Arbitrement of any Power.

Vermont have therefore no other alternative, they must either submit to the unwarrantable Decree of Congress, or continue their appeal to Heaven and to Arms. There may in future be a Trial at Congress, which of the United States shall possess this Territory, or how it shall be divided among them (but this does not concern Vermont;) and it is altogether probable, that there have been proposals for dividing it between New Hampshire and New York, the same as the King of Prussia, the Empress of Russia and the Empress of Hanover, divided Poland between those Powers; with this difference only, that the former are not in possession of Vermont

The cloud that has hovered over Vermont since the ungenerous claims of New Hampshire and Massachusetts Bay, has been seen, and its motions carefully observed by this Government, who expected that Congress would have averted the Storm; but disappointed in this and unjustly treated as the people over whom I preside, on the most serious and candid Deliberation, conceive themselves to be in this affair; yet blessed by Heaven with constancy of mind, and some friends as ~~are~~ an honest, valient, and brave people, are necessitated solemnly to declare to your Excellency, to Congress, and to the World, that as Life, Liberty, and the Rights of this People intrusted them by God are inseperable, they do not expect to be justified in the Eye of Heaven, or that Posterity would call them blessed, if they should tamely surrender any Part

— without

Without doubt Congress have (previous to this) been acquainted that this State hath maintained several Posts on its frontiers, at its own expence which is well known to be the only security in this Quarter of the frontier Inhabitants of the States of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, and it is highly probable that Albany, and such parts of the State of New York as lies to the Northward of that, would before this time have been ravaged by the Common Enemy, had it not been for the indefatigable exertions of this State, and the fears which the Enemy have been, and are still possessed of, that their Retreat would be interrupted by the Troops from those Posts, and the Militia of this State — Thus by guarding the Frontiers, has this State secured the friendship of a part of the private Gentlemen and Yeomanry, even in those States, whose Representatives it seems, are seeking its destruction; and having the general approbation of disinterested States, this People are undoubtedly in a Condition to maintain Government, but should they be deceived in such connexions, yet as they are not included in the Thirteen United States, but conceive themselves to be a seperate Body, they would have still in their Power other advantages for they are if necessitated to it, at Liberty to offer, or accept Terms of Cessation of Hostilities with Great Britain, without the approbation of any other Man, or Body of Men; for on proviso

that neither Congress

that neither Congress, nor the Legislature of those States which they upresent, will support Vermont in her Independence, but devote her to the usurped Government of any other Power, she has not the most distant motives to continue Hostilities with Great Britain, and maintain an important Frontier, for the benefit of the United States, & for no other Reward than the ungratefull one, of being enslaved by them — True, Vermont has taken an active part in the War subsisting between the United States and Great Britain, under an expectation of securing her Liberty, considering the claims of Great Britain "to make laws to bind the Colonies in all cases whatsoever without their consent" to be an abridgement of the natural Rights of mankind; and it appears that the said Resolves of the 2d and 9th of June, are equally arbitrary, and that they furnish equal Motives to the Citizens of Vermont, to resist the one as the other;

For if the United States have departed from the virtuous principles, upon which they first commenced the War with Great Britain, and have assumed to themselves the Power of usurping the Rights of Vermont, it is Time, high time for her, seriously to consider what she is fighting for, and to what purpose she has been more than five years last past, spilling the Blood of her brave Sons & Sons — This Government have dealt with severity towards the Tories, confiscated some of their Estates, imprisoned some, banished some, and hanged some, &c. and kept the remainder in

in as good subjection as any State belonging to the Union; and they have likewise granted unto worthy Whigs in the neighbouring States, some part of their unappropriated lands, the inconsiderable avails of which, have been faithfully appropriated for the Defence of the Northern Frontier, which ~~without~~ eventually terminates in the support of the Interest, and securing the Independance and Sovreignty of the United States; and after having faithfully executed all this, have the Mortification, to meet with the Resentment of Congress circulated in Hand-Bills and in the New York Public Papers representing their conduct "In contravening the good "Intentions of Congress, as being highly unwarrantable, and subversive of the Peace and welfare of the United States" Those Resolves serve only to raise the aspiring hopes and expectations, and to revive a languishing flame, of a few Tories and schismatics in this State who have never been instrumental in promoting the Common Cause of America — With regard to the State of Massachusetts Bay. they have not as a Legislative Body, laid any claim to the Territory of Vermont; nor have they enacted Laws, judicially authorising Congress to take cognizance thereof agreeable to the aforementioned Resolves, a majority of their Legislative Body, considering such pretentions to be an infringement of the Rights of Vermont; and therefore the State of Massachusetts Bay, cannot be considered as a

party to this controversy, and as to the State of New Hampshire although they have judicially authorised Congress to make a finial adjudication of their late stanted, and very extraordinary claim to the Territory of Vermont, yet by recurring back to original proceedings between the two States, it appears that the General Court of New Hampshire had, previous to laying their said claim, settled their boundary Line with the State of Vermont, and established Connecticut River for the Boundary between the respective Governments; and so far as the approbation of the Government of New Hampshire can go, have previously conceded to the Independence of Vermont. The particulars of which are to prolix to be given in this letter, but are exhibited at large in a Pamphlet entitled "A Concise Refutation of the Claims of New Hampshire and Massachusetts Bay to the Territory of Vermont" & which is herewith transmitted, as a Bar against the Right of New Hampshire to a trial for any part of Vermont.

The Government of New Hampshire, ever since the Royal adjudication of the Boundary Line between them and the Government of New York in 1764. have cast the Inhabitants of the contested Territory, out of their protection, and abandoned them to the Tyranny of New York, and have very lately over the Head of the Settlement aforesaid, laid claim to the said Territory, and enacted Laws as aforesaid, to enable Congress to judicially determine the

the merit of said Claim — How glaringly illegal, absurd and inconsistent must their conduct as a Legislative Body apear in this respect! Such irregularities among individuals, arise from the ill government of the human passions, but when it takes place in public Bodies it is unpardonable, as its influence is more extensive and injurious to Society. — Hence it appears that (legally speaking) neither of the States of New-Hampshire or Massachusetts Bay, can be with propriety considered as parties in the controversy, and consequently, New York alone is left a competitor with Vermont — Even admitting that Congress are possessed of sufficient authority to determine those Disputes agreeable to their Resolutions; which by this Government is by no means admissable —

Notwithstanding the usurpation and Injustice of neighbouring Governments towards Vermont, and the late Resolutions of Congress, this Government, from a principle of Virtue, and close attatchment to the Cause of Liberty, as well as a thorough examination of their own policy, are induced, once more to offer Union with the United States of America, of which Congress are the legal Representative Body — Should this be denied, this State will propose the same to the Legislatures of the United States seperately, and take such other measures as self preservation may justify.

In behalf of the Council, I am
Sir, your Excellencys most Obedient Humble Servant
Thos Chittenden

To His Excellency Samuel Huntington, Esquire,
President of Congress

A true Copy Attest, Thomas Tolman P. Secry.

25-7

237.79

New Holderness 9th Augt 1780

Sir, By yours of the 5th instant I am informed that the Committee have engaged General Sullivan to go to Congress on the affairs of the grants. I am glad so good a man has undertaken it, as I esteem it to be a matter of great importance to this State, altho' I am so unhappy as to differ in this point from some pretty powerfull members of the community.

I have wrote to the Deputy Secretary to deliver General Sullivan the papers, which are at my lodgings in Exeter. I also wrote to the General: but a days conversation would be of more service than all I could write in a month. I would willingly wait on the General, but am unable to ride by means of the gout. I hope the severity of it is past & that I shall soon be able to travel.

I should think no labour or pains to much to see him before he goes. As by seeing him and having the papers present I might explain many things which otherwise may not readily occur to his mind

I am with the utmost esteem and respect your honors most obed't. humble servant

Samuel Livermore

The Hon. Col. Weare

President &c. &c.

2 H

237.181

Durham August 17th. 1780.

Dear Sir,

I am determined to set out for Congress early on Monday morning & now send for the Horse, which the State was to furnish. I have wrote the Secretary respecting papers in the Vermont dispute which are material but no copies of them in the case — viz: Copy of the Report of the Attorny & Solicitor General in 1752.

Settlement between New York & Connecticut; also between New York & Massa —

Governor Wentworths Commission

Grant to the Council of Plymouth

Sir Ferdenando Gorges Patent

These papers are alluded to in the state of the case by Colo. Atkinson & are in my opinion material — I find a Deposition of Col. Atkinson accompanying the Case which is not sworn to & several copies not attested. The printed State of New Yorks Claim more than half missing & all the other papers in a state by no means convincing of New Hampshire having been any solicitous about the event of the present controversy. Could any of those papers be procured previous to my departure it might be of advantage

I have

I have the Honor to be my
respectfully Sir, your most
Obed't. Serv't.
Jno Sullivan

Hon'ble Mesheck Weare Esqr.

19

237:83

To the Honorable the Committee of Safety for the State of New Hampshire: The petetion of the subscribers Inhabitents of that part of the said State lying on or near Connecticut River, most humbly sheweth;

That this State having laid its claim of Jurisdiction, to that tract, or Territory of land on the westerly side of Connecticut River, called the New Hampshire Grants, before the Honorable Continental Congress, and from the favourable reception it there met with, while supported by an able Agent) had, from the justice of Congress as well as the equity and policy of our claim, every reason to hope and expect, the same would obtain in whole, or in part. And as the said claim still lies before Congress for its determination, which we understand by late resolutions of Congress is to be finally heard and determined on the second Tuesday of September next. — And as the determination will be of great importence, as well to this State, as to those people inhabiting the said Grants, it ought to prompt us to every exertion, to obtain a favourable adjudication in that matter. — And as we understand there is no Agent appointed, or person specially instructed to solicit at Congress in behalf of this State, and as we apprehend a

214

failure

failure for want of due care and attention, may be attended with consequences very prejudicial to the interest and welfare of this State, no less than the defection of the Counties of Cheshire & Grafton in their allegiance thereto; which having already began, is making fast progress in the sentiments, and practices, of the people in this part of the State, as they never can set down easy and contented, under a Jurisdiction, seperate from their brethren on the west side of the same River, who appear equally desirous to be joined with us in the same jurisdiction. — And as we conceive this matter demands the Wisdom, attention, and most spirited exertions of the Legislature of this State, we most humbly pray the same may be ~~convened~~ convened as soon as possible to take in consideration the premises and to proceed thereon as to them in their wisdom shall seem good: And as in duty bound &c

Saml Hunt

Petetion of Colo Saml Hunt no date

237.85

Philadelphia Sept^r 16^th 1780

Dear Sir,

Congress have not yet come to a Single resolution respecting Vermont though it has been five days & on the tapis — New York seems disposed to have a Declaration against its being &c an Independant State, & then to have Comiss^rs appointed to say whether it falls to New York or New Hamps^r. General Poulson & myself have opposed this & urged the appointment of Commissioners in the first instance, both upon principles of policy & upon a conviction of the want of power in Congress to take any other step agreable to the Articles of Confederation.

I last evening received letters from several persons of note in that quarter & the adjacent parts of New Hamp^r expressive of the sentiments of the people apprising me that a division of the Grants will be disagreable to all; That if Congress are determined they shall not be Independent seven eighths of them will petetion Congress to reunite them to New Hamp^r. Col^o Olcote of Vermont waited on me & assured me that this was the general sentiment of the people — I shall therefore be less violent in my opposition to that Question in future.

I am exceeding happy to find that New York have appointed three gentlemen of high spirits & all deeply interested in the event to appear as Agents for that Steate, breathing out nothing but Death & Slaughter against those people who have so long set their authority at defiance & painting the bitter enmity which they have ever discovered against the Yorkers:—

To

To this I have endeavoured to oppose the moderate spirit of New Hampshire; her readiness to acquiesce in the Determinations of Congress & even though the Land is clearly within her limits to submit to it's being a seperate State if Congress should find it for the good of the whole. I have assisted the Workers in Establishing the fact of an utter aversion in those people to live under their Jurisdiction; & at the same time have taken care to mention the Harmony which has ever subsisted between them & New Hampshire. This I find is likely to have the effect intended. The Members begin to see that if the Lands are adjudged to New York the Continent must be involved in a War to & enforce the Determination of Congress which can only be avoided by adjudging it to New Hampshire & I am convinced this will finaly turn the scale in favour of New Hampshire — I wish to have forwarded to me as soon as possible one of the New Hampshire Law Books in which is Governor Wentworths Commission as the Secretary has only furnished me with an Extract from it without date. I am indeed ashamed of the papers furnished from New Hampshire & hope for Success rather from Political considerations than from any other motives.

A material paper is the prohibition to the Governor of New York in 1767 to exercise Jurisdiction or grant lands in that Territory. This I cannot obtain. New York agents are possessed of but will not produce it. I apprehend it must be in the

Secretarys office; the several papers which I wrote for when at home or such of them as can be procured ought to be forwarded. The southern Members are as ignorant of the Territory of New-England as we are of the lands under the Poles. I procured some useful papers in Connecticut & hope to obtain more before the final trial. I shall also be glad of every evidence that New Hampshire can furnish & of their instructions from time to time.

We have nothing new since Genl. Gates Defeat. I have seen a private Letter from Genl. Sullivan giving a particular account of the Action the Loss on our side was about two hundred the Enemys five hundred. the Brave Marylanders after being deserted by the Militia & the Commander in Chief performed wonders. & retired with regularity. General Smallwood had not heard of General Gates when he wrote as he had retreated 200 miles from the place of action before he wrote the Letter which so much frightened those who believed it of which I never was in the number. We have this day rec'd intelligence from New York that the second division of the French Fleet is on the Coast. I rejoice that Genl. Washington gives New Hampshire credit for complying with the Resolutions of Congress better than any other State. I wish her to continue her exertions as the Army is literally Starving & I fear will disband. We are ~~never~~ using every exertion to remedy the evils which surround us, but it is a very late hour for the business, though I hope not

too

too late.

I have the honor to be most respectfully
Dear Sir, your most obedient Servt
Jn° Sullivan

Hon^ble Meshech Weare Esqr.

Sir, Newbury 6th Novr. 1780

From Gen. Bailey to Pres. Weare

I send enclosed an Extract of a letter from Majr. Allen to Capt. Safford which is very alarming to me. I question whether either of the United States may proceed so far as that extract shews they have done they confine the truce to this State as they call it. The threats they have made and many other concurring reasons induce me to think the letters of importance and negotiation mentioned in the abstract are no other but in consequence of previous proposals ~~of~~ by Genl. Allen to the Governor of Canada in behalf of Vermont I cannot expect any letter of a number on that side the Mountains if they cannot have their will them to join the Enemy and if they do it will be bad for you as well as us. Immediate care ought to be taken but the case is men will not believe till too late I did give notice to you of the ~~time~~ temper of that people and urge that you would insist at Congress for a Determination whether Vermont was a State or not and that without delay. Instead of that I am informed your Agent at Congress opposed the motion when put. Therefore the dispute is not settled, and time given to the Enemy to make the greatest offers to them people. All the force that can be spared from Canada is at Crown Point and Onion River, and tho' they have been for six weeks in that quarter and it has been in their power to distress the People

on

on the Grants west of the Mountains yet not
[a] man Killed or captivated nor a House Burnt
but look on this side where people are opposed to
the people on the west in their extraragancies
they burn, Kill and Captivate, and have been and
now are ~~made~~ watching to destroy this and other places
on this River, also look at York State what devast-
ations here they made even to Fort Miller The Country
is ransacked and burnt, is it not cleaning on our
part ~~or shall~~ we shall keep a good look out and are
determined to oppose to the last I do expect they will
make another attack on this River, I wish you would
give orders that the nighest Regts. in your State to us
might be in readines, while I am writing Lt White
came in from Onion River informs that a Party of
Enemy are still on Onion River. Your Troops are
well that are here and I am much pleased with
your Officers

I am gents,
Your most obedient
Humble Servant
Jacob Bayley

237:88

Extract of a Letter from Majr Allen
Otter ~~Outer~~ Creek
Dated at ~~Otter~~, Creek Octr. 30th 1780 To Capt Safford
at Bethel East of the Mountains.

Dear Sir,

I received a letter from General Allen last evening informing that the evening before he recd a Flag from the British Troops at Crown Point with letters of importence from the Commander in Chief at Quebec — Major Carlton hath pledged his Faith that all Hostilities shall cease on his part during the Negociation and he expects the same on our part. You are therefore carefully to observe the rules of War and give strict orders to your Scouts and Troops to govern themselves accordingly.

A copy of this letter you will forward to the Troops stationed on your side of the Mountains in this State, I shall inform you of every move necessary for you moving on this side of the Mountains. If the spirit of this letter were made known to the Inhabitants on your side the Mountains it would be well

I am Dear Sir yours

Ebenr Allen Majr Comdt

(Copy)

178

Newbury 22nd Novr 1780

Sir,

The season is such that the Enemy is not likely to do any more mischief at present We thought the Soldiers had better be discharged and I suppose Majr Fitcombs Soldiers will be furlough'd therefore you need no Spying Commissary here, but I should think if Major Childs or any other man should continue purchasing (which I should think adviseable) that Colo Charles Johnson should be appointed to receive, it will be doubtless necessary that at least two hundred men is sent here as soon as the first of Feby. then the Snow and Ice will be hard, and fit for Snow shewing: I understand General Allen has made Peace for Vermont till that time but as we dont own that State we shall be their only butt. If the United States in particular do not take notice of such Treasonable conduct we had better let the Cause drop. If you had the Jurisdiction of the whole Grants which I am sure you could if you only desire it the Country would be safe, but if you split at the River you keep all in confusion and must still depend for your own safety and reap no benefit neither by Duy nor Vacant Land which is very considerable While the matter hangs in suspence the Enemy may take popession (they claim it by the Quebec Bill as well as part of your State) then where is your State? For my part I am determined to fight for New Hamp^r and the

the United States as long as I am alive and have one copper in my hand, but if our exertions are not greater and more effectual another year will end the Dispute not in our favour.

The United States suffer themselves to be attacked Front and Rear and on the Flanks. Did General Burgoyne get clear when that was the case with him. Our Chariot is in the mire. Praying to Hercules or France without putting too the shoulders with all our might will not do. This Frontier is the only one for five hundred miles west remaining. it is near the Enemy — it is of great importance to you as well as the other New England States and the Cause in General. Shall we forever be on the defencive and yet not able to defend ourselves? as it is impossible we should while Canada is in the hands of the Enemy. Shall we not make an attempt on Canada — that Harbour for Spoiler. Thieves and Robbers. I must confess the Cause is sinking so fast in my view I am willing (as I see no other remedy) to make the attempt if I run ten chances to one to Die in the attempt Sr. I hope you will excuse my freedom and give me leave to subscribe myself your Hon[rs]

Most Obedient

Humble

Servant

Jacob Bayley

Hon[ble] Meshech Weare

2 95

237:90

Report
Of Convention of Delegates
From
The Several Towns in Cheshire County,
held at Walpole,
15 Nov. 1780.

Not found in the files but may be seen in Stades Collection of Vermont State Papers, p. 126, 127.

State of Vermont, In Council, Bennington Dec^r 12^th 1780

Sir,

Inclosed I transmit your Excellency a copy of my letter to Congress of the 25^th of July last, which together with this, I request may be laid before the Legislature of the State over whom you preside for their persual and consideration

The arguments and representations therein exhibited, are equally applicable for the consideration of the several Legislatures of the United States seperatly

Many and great are the evils which Vermont labour under, Congress claiming a Jurisdiction over them, three of the United States claiming their Territory in whole or in part, and Vermont at the same time a Frontier in part to those very States, and exposed to British Invasions, who being possessed of the Lakes, can suddenly bring their whole Force into this State, which beyond hesitation will be their object next Campaign (unless some immediate Measures are adopted to prevent it) as they have already destroyed the frontier Settlements of the State of New York. In a word, their Force will undoubtedly be so great that it will be out of the power of this State to form Magazines, and support a Body of Troops sufficient to withstand them, and the consequence must ~~then~~ ~~inevitably~~ inevitably be either, that the inhabitants of this State be sacrificed, or 2^ndly be obliged to retire into the interior parts of the United States for

Safety.

P.S.

safety, or 3d be under the disagreeable necessity of making the best terms with the British that may be in their power—

Nearly the same would be the condition of either of the United States, seperately considered from their Union / as they would be unable to withstand the British Power.) which may abundantly serve to evince, that it is out of the power of Vermont to be justly serviceable to them, unless they are admitted into Union.

This State are of opinion that it is high time she had better asurances from the several States now in Union, whether at the conclusion of the present War, she may without molestation enjoy her Independence, or whether she is only struggling in a bloody war, to establish neighbouring States in their Independance, to overthrow or swallow up her own, and deprive her Citizens of their landed Estates.

I do therefore in behalf of this State, demand your Legislature that they relinquish their claim to Jurisdiction over any, and every part of this State, and request them to join in a solid Union with Vermont, against the British Forces which invade the American States

Such a Union for the mutual advantage of both States, I am ready to ratify and confirm on the part of this State

I have the Honor to be,
with Sentiments of Respect &
Esteem, your Excellency's
very Obedt Humble Servant
Thos Chittenden

245

P. S. I would recommend to your Excellency's favourable notice, Majr Fay the bearer, who is a Gentleman in whom the highest confidence may be put for any farther particulars of intelligence

J. C.

His Excellency
Meshech Weare Esqr.
President of the Council
of the State of New Hampshire